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DAREDEVIL®

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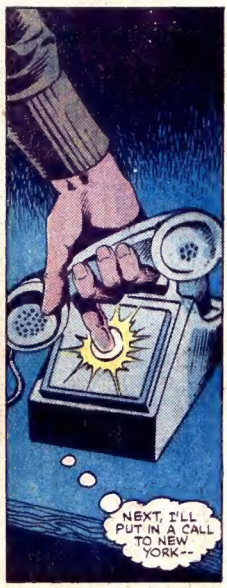
AT LEAST I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT BEING SEEN. THE ROOM TO THE LEFT IS EMPTY AND THE COUPLE ON THE RIGHT ARE SNORING LOUD ENOUGH TO RATTLE MY MOLARS.
RADAR SENSE INDICATES NO ACTIVITY IN THE CORRIDOR OUTSIDE, EITHER.

A COUPLE OF THINGS TO DO...
...FIRST I'LL CHANGE TO MY MATTHEW MURDOCK THREADS.


NEXT, I'LL PUT IN A CALL TO NEW YORK--

AND--
YURIKO? IT'S ME-- THE MAN WHO RESCUED YOU FROM THE SHIP.* I HOPE I HAVEN'T KEPT YOU WAITING TOO LONG.
YOU NO LONGER WEAR THE STRANGE RED CLOTHING.
*LAST ISSUE -LINDA.

YES, WELL, IT'S EASIER TO MOVE AROUND UNNOTICED THIS WAY.
I SEE. COME, WE MUST HURRY. OUR TRAIN LEAVES IN AN HOUR.

[I FOLLOWED THEM FROM THE DOCK TO THE HOTEL. A SECOND MAN--AN AMERICAN--HAS JOINED THE WOMAN. SHE MENTIONED THE RAILROAD.]*
[YOU HAVE DONE WELL. YOU WILL BE REWARDED.]*
*TRANSLATED FROM THE JAPANESE. -L.

YOU HEARD. OUR CLIENT DOES NOT WISH THE WOMAN HARMED. AS FOR THE MAN...
...TRY TO MAKE HIS DEATH APPEAR A COMMON STREET CRIME.

MEANWHILE--
IT IS NIGHT YET YOU WEAR DARK GLASSES. I DO NOT UNDERSTAND.
IT'S BECAUSE I'M--
SHE DOESN'T KNOW I'M BLIND. SHE DOESN'T NEED TO KNOW.

I PREFER IT THAT WAY.
AND THE WHITE CANE? IS THIS NOT THE THING OF A BLIND MAN? YOU PROVED YOU ARE SIGHTED WHEN YOU FOUGHT MY ABDUCTORS.

HMM...MAYBE WE CAN TRICK OUR ENEMIES INTO THINKING WE'RE MORE HELPLESS THAN WE ARE.

LOOK, YOU GO BUY THE TICKETS-- OR WHATEVER WE NEED. I'VE GOT TO MAKE A CALL.

THEN--
YOUR CALL TO NEW YORK, SIR. GO AHEAD, PLEASE.

DAILY BUGLE? BEN URICH, PLEASE.
BEN? HI! THIS IS MATT!
GOT THE INFORMATION I NEED?

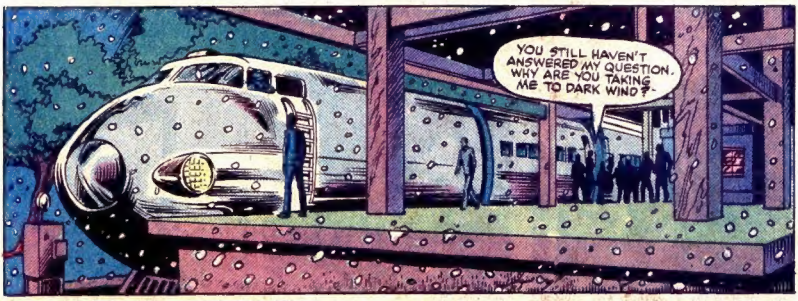
IN NEW YORK...
UH-HUH, FILES SAY THIS DARK WIND CHARACTER'S REALLY NAMED KENJI OYAMA--KAMIKAZE PILOT IN WORLD WAR II.
CRASHED HIS PLANE INTO AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER--MILLION TO ONE CHANCE.
THEY SAY HE'S WORN A MASK EVER SINCE. NO ONE KNOWS WHY.
WROTE A BOOK ABOUT IT AFTER THE WAR. MADE A BUNDLE.
DAILY BUGLE
BOUGHT AN ISLAND AND SET HIMSELF UP AS SOME KIND OF LORD. MARRIED, AND HAD TWO SONS AND A DAUGHTER.
THAT'S ALL I HAVE. INTERESTED IN SOME CONJECTURES?
GO AHEAD, BEN.
OKAY. THEY SAY HE FINANCES A LOT OF REACTIONARY POLITICAL ACTIVITY.
IT'S BELIEVED HIS SONS WERE KILLED TRYING TO ASSASSINATE THE JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER. STILL WITH ME?
I'M LISTENING.
OUR MAN IN TOKYO SAYS OYAMA IS NOT ABOVE USING LOCAL THUGS--YAKUZA--
--AND THAT HE'S HAD A FEW PEOPLE KILLED--
--ESPECIALLY ANYONE WHO GETS NEAR HIS ISLAND. THE BOTTOM LINE, MATTHEW--
--THIS BIRD IS DANGEROUS. AVOID HIM.

HERE'S SOMETHING ELSE...
...OUR TOKYO STRINGER HEARD...
...THAT OYAMA SCARS HIS CHILDREN'S FACES...
...MAYBE LIKE HIS IS SCARRED.
PRETTY TWISTED, HUH?
MATT... MATT! YOU STILL THERE?

MATT
SORRY FOR THE INTERRUPTION, BEN.
IT'S OKAY WITH ME. I'M NOT PAYING FOR THE CALL.
BEHIND ME-- GUN BEING COCKED.
BLAMM
FWRESH
HE'S TAKING OFF. I COULD FOLLOW... BUT TIME'S TOO SHORT AS IT IS.
WHAT HAS HAPPENED?
FORGET IT! LET'S BOARD THE TRAIN.

STRANGE CITY. STRANGE COUNTRY! NOT MUCH CHANCE OF CATCHING HIM ANYWAY--AND REACHING OYAMA'S ISLAND AND BULLSEYE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING.
LEAD ON, YURIKO.
SOON--
FUNNY... I ALWAYS THOUGHT OF JAPAN AS QUAINT--ALMOST PRIMITIVE--
--YET OUR TRAIN IS STREAKING THROUGH THE COUNTRYSIDE AT TWO HUNDRED MILES AN HOUR.
SOME PRIMITIVE.
WHAT IS WRONG?
WHAT IS WRONG?
BULLSEYE! DO YOU HEAR ME?
LOUD AN' CLEAR, PALLY. WHAT'S WRONG IS DAREDEVIL. HE'S IN JAPAN--HEADIN' FOR THIS ISLAND.
HEADIN' HERE FAST.
[HE IS HALLUCINATING. THE ANESTHETIC FROM THE SURGERY IS PLAYING TRICKS ON HIS MIND.]

[PERHAPS. PERHAPS NOT. WHEN MEN HATE GREATLY, A LINK IS FORGED BETWEEN THEM. SUCH A LINK EXISTS BETWEEN BULLSEYE--]
"--AND THE AMERICAN DAREDEVIL..."
...DO YOU HEAR ME? WHAT IS WRONG?
JUST MY HEAD INJURY ACTING UP AGAIN. I'LL BE FINE.
YOU HAVE NOT TOLD ME WHY IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU FIND THIS BULLSEYE.
IT'S A LONG STORY--
--AND AN UGLY ONE. HE HAS DEPRIVED MANY PEOPLE OF THEIR LIVES... AND DEPRIVED ME OF THE WOMAN I LOVE.
HE KILLED HER?
YES... BRUTALLY.
YOUR TURN. WHAT'S YOUR CONNECTION WITH DARK WIND AND--
[WE WILL BE STOPPING FOR THIRTY MINUTES. PASSENGERS MAY STEP ONTO THE PLATFORM IF THEY WISH.]
LET US... EXTEND OUR LIMBS?
STRETCH OUR LEGS.


YOU STILL HAVEN'T ANSWERED MY QUESTION. WHY ARE YOU TAKING ME TO DARK WIND?

GUN BEING COCKED.

KraKK

GET INSIDE AND STAY THERE.
THE GUNMAN MUST HAVE DOUBLED BACK AND BOARDED THE TRAIN. HE'S BEEN WAITING FOR A SHOT AT US.

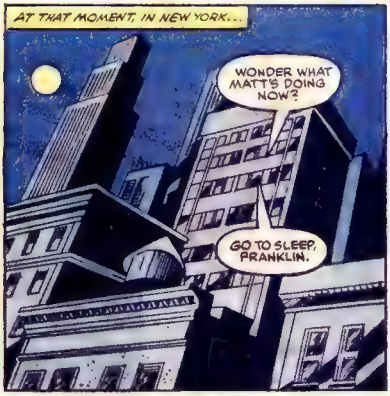
I CAN HEAR HIM RUNNING ALONG THE RIGHT OF WAY... QUICKER IF I TAKE THE HIGH ROAD--

--AND HE WON'T GET AWAY AGAIN!

ALL RIGHT, MISTER, WHO SENT YOU?
HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND ENGLISH AND I DON'T SPEAK JAPANESE.
I CAN'T QUESTION HIM.

I CAN'T DO ANYTHING EXCEPT HIT HIM.
AND THERE'S NO POINT IN THAT.
TRAIN'S LEAVING.
BLAST.
HROOONNNKKK
PRESENTLY--
OKAY, NOW BACK TO THE TOPIC AT HAND, YOU WERE TELLING ME WHY YOU'RE LEADING ME TO BULLSEYE AND DARK WIND.
DARK WIND RECRUITS YOUNG MEN TO SERVE IN HIS PRIVATE ARMY. THERE IS ONE SUCH MAN-- HIS NAME IS KIRA AND--
--I LOVE HIM VERY MUCH.
IF HE CONTINUES TO FOLLOW THE MADNESS OF DARK WIND, HE WILL BE HARMED.
I HOPE YOU WILL DISTRACT DARK WIND SO I MAY REASON WITH KIRA. THAT, OR--
OR WHAT?

I HOPE YOU KILL HIM.

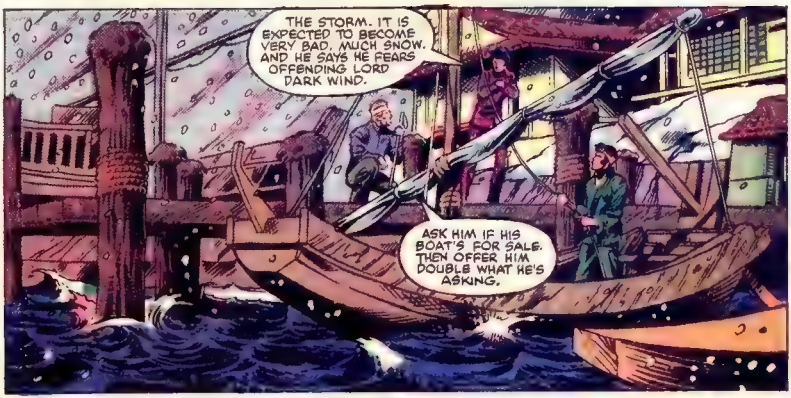

AT THAT MOMENT, IN NEW YORK...
WONDER WHAT MATT'S DOING NOW?
GO TO SLEEP, FRANKLIN.

BET HE'S IN ONE OF THOSE GEISHA HOUSES DRINKING THAT RICE STUFF THEY BREW--
GO TO SLEEP, FRANKLIN.

--SURROUNDED BY BEAUTIFUL ORIENTAL WOMEN GIVING HIM BACK RUBS...

I'LL GO TO SLEEP.

IN JAPAN...
HE SAYS HE WILL NOT TAKE US.
WHY NOT?


THE STORM. IT IS EXPECTED TO BECOME VERY BAD. MUCH SNOW. AND HE SAYS HE FEARS OFFENDING LORD DARK WIND.
ASK HIM IF HIS BOAT'S FOR SALE. THEN OFFER HIM DOUBLE WHAT HE'S ASKING.

SOOW--
IT WILL BE NIGHT BEFORE WE REACH DARK WIND'S ISLAND.
THAT MAY BE TO OUR ADVANTAGE.

ARE YOU NOT AFRAID?
I'VE BEEN CALLED THE "MAN *WITHOUT* FEAR" AND I THINK I'VE LIVED UP TO THAT, GENERALLY.

BUT YEAH, I'M FEELING SOMETHING YOU COULD CALL FEAR. BUT NOT OF WHATEVER'S WAITING ON THE ISLAND.
OF WHAT COULD HAPPEN IF WE DON'T GO THERE. OF WHAT BULLSEYE MIGHT DO.

HE'S COMIN'!

HE'S ALMOST HERE. I CAN FEEL IT.
I DO NOT DOUBT YOU.

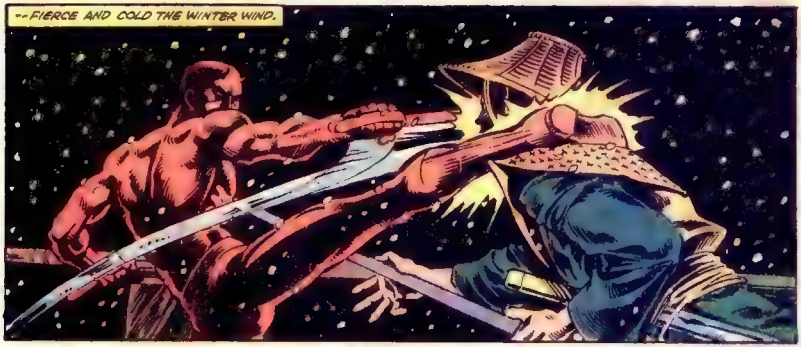
GIMME MY CLOTHES. I WANT A SHOT AT HIM.
I ADMIRE YOUR SPIRIT. IT IS WHAT I HOPED TO FIND IN YOU. BUT YOU ARE NOT YET SUFFICIENTLY RECOVERED TO FIGHT.
THESE SHALL DEAL WITH THE AMERICAN-- THESE BRAVE WARRIORS... THESE SAMURAI.
[LET ME JOIN THEM, LORD DARK WIND.]
[NOT YOU, KIRA. YOU ARE NOT SUFFICIENTLY TRAINED.]
[BESIDES, THE THREE OF THEM ARE MORE THAN A MATCH FOR ONE LONE MAN.]
HE'S HERE. HE'S STEPPIN' FOOT--
"--ON THE ISLAND..."
WIND'S GETTING MEAN. I HOPE THIS TUB STAYS PUT.
WE SHOULD FIND SHELTER FOR THE NIGHT.

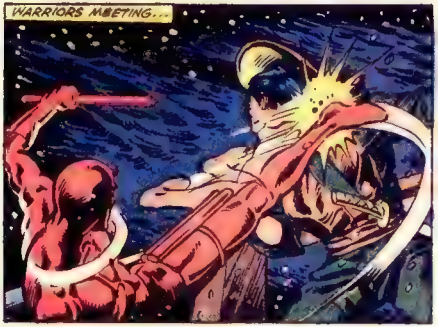
I KNOW OF A PLACE JUST BEYOND THE BRIDGE. BUT BEFORE WE GO FURTHER, YOU MUST PUT THESE ON.
WHAT ARE THEY?
TRADITIONAL JAPANESE CLOTHES. LORD DARK WIND INSISTS THAT HIS PEOPLE DRESS IN THE OLD WAYS.
I SHALL AVERT MY EYES.
HARDLY NECESSARY.
SOMEONE'S COMING.
THEY'RE ALMOST TO THE BRIDGE.
HOW CAN YOU BE SURE. THE SNOW IS TOO THICK TO SEE.
I DON'T NEED TO SEE.

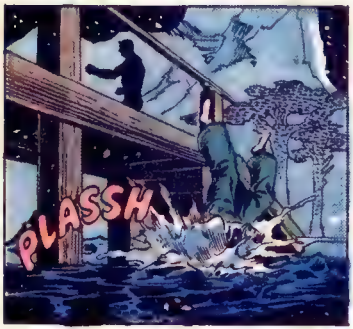
THEY ARE HIGHLY TRAINED, EXPERT SWORDSMEN. WE MUST FLEE.
NO.

GENTLEMEN?

NARROW, ICY BRIDGE--


--FIERCE AND COLD THE WINTER WIND.

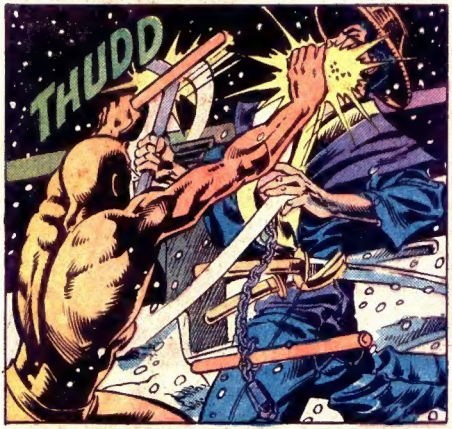

WARRIORS MEETING...

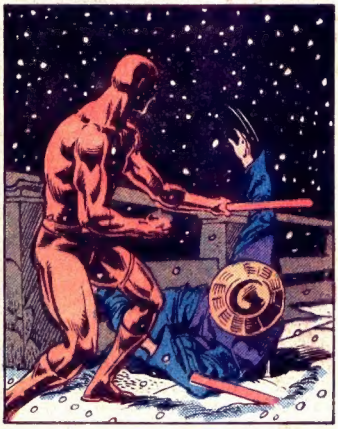

PLASSH

KLUNK

KLANK
SPLASH

WHANK


THUDD



HE WON!

GOING TO TRY NOW?
TRY?
TO KILL ME.

WHY SHOULD I DO THAT?
YOU LED ME INTO A TRAP DIDN'T YOU?

SOMETHING MY FRIEND SAID ON THE TELEPHONE, BACK AT THE RAILROAD STATION... I WAS TOO BUSY TO PAY ATTENTION AT THE TIME, BUT A WHILE AGO I REMEMBERED IT--
--HE SAID DARK WIND SCARRED HIS CHILDREN.
YOU'RE HIS DAUGHTER.
YES. BUT I DID NOT LIE TO YOU. I DO LOVE KIRA. I FEAR WHAT MAY HAPPEN TO HIM. AND I HATE MY FATHER.
I HATE HIM FOR WHAT HE DID TO MY BROTHERS AND FOR WHAT HE IS DOING TO KIRA.
I CANNOT EXPECT YOU TO BELIEVE ME.
BUT I DO. I HAVE WAYS OF TELLING WHEN SOMEONE IS LYING. YOU'RE NOT.
THEN YOU MUST TAKE THE BLADE AND KILL THESE MEN. THEY ARE PUPPETS OF MY FATHER.
NO.

YOU ARE MERCIFUL.
NOT NECESSARILY. NOT ALWAYS. I'M JUST NOT A KILLER.
AS YOU WILL. PUT ON THE GARMENTS QUICKLY.
I KNOW A PLACE WHERE WE CAN SPEND THE NIGHT--
--A STABLE. WE DARE NOT BUILD A FIRE. THE SERVANTS OF MY FATHER MIGHT SEE--
-- BUT AT LEAST IT WILL SHELTER US FROM THE STORM.
YURIKO...
I UNDERSTAND. IT IS COLD AND DARK AND FEARFUL IN THIS PLACE AND THE TOUCH OF A STRANGER IS ALL WE HAVE--
--AND IT MAY BE ENOUGH...
END.